狂骨の夢 4

きょうこつのゆめ

原作 京極夏彦
作画 志水アキ

KADOKAWA 角川

狂骨の夢

THE CRAZY BONES DREAM

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TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

As always, Kyougoku turns to folklore to explore the motivations of the characters involved in the mystery. This arc is symbolized by a type of youkai called a "kyoukotsu" ("Crazy Bones") - a spirit born from the corpse of someone whose body was dumped in a well or someone who was left to die in a well. The ghost of Sadako from the "Ring" movies is a sort of kyoukotsu. Dumping a corpse in a well was seen as an horrific sin both because it was disrespectful to the dead and because it ruined a valuable source of clean water.

A female kyoukotsu is often called a "tsurube-onna" ("well bucket woman") because her ghost rises and descends in the well like a water bucket. The tsurube-onna's name links her to two other types of youkai: the tsurube-otoshi ("well bucket dropper") and the tsurube-bi ("well bucket fire"). The tsurube-otoshi takes the form of a giant disembodied head that falls from trees to crush or devour travelers, and the tsurube-bi is a benign spirit of cold fire that bobs harmlessly through the forest. Japanese mythology is *weird*.

There are also references to two famous kabuki plays in this chapter: Yotsuya Kaidan ("The Ghost Story of Yotsuya") and Banchou Sarayashiki ("The Plate Mansion of Banchou"). In both stories, women who have been wronged by the men they love return from the grave to seek revenge.

In Yotsuya Kaidan, the heroine Oiwa is married to a poor samurai, Iemon. Iemon resents his low status in life and begins an affair with a rich neighbor, Ume. Ume is jealous of Oiwa's beauty, so she conspires to poison Oiwa and her unborn child. Oiwa, who is horribly disfigured by the poison, kills herself. Iemon and Ume soon marry... but Oiwa's ghost tricks Iemon into murdering his new wife on their wedding night. Oiwa's revenge continues until Ume's entire family is wiped out. She then haunts Iemon relentlessly until he's driven mad and can no longer discern dreams from reality.

CONTINUED
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TRANSLATOR'S NOTES (CONTINUED)

In the original version of Banchou Sarayashiki, the heroine Okiku is a beautiful servant girl who rejects the sexual advances of her master, Aoyama. Aoyama tricks her into believing that she's lost one of his ten priceless Chinese plates, a crime punishable by death. Okiku frantically counts the plates, but finds only nine. Aoyama promises to forgive her if she'll become his lover, but she refuses. He then kills her and throws her body into a well. (In a particularly dark version of the story, Aoyama is a sexual sadist who slowly tortures Okiku by repeatedly lowering her into the well until she drowns.) Okiku returns as a ghost and haunts the Aoyama household, counting plates from one to nine and letting out a terrible scream when she reaches the missing tenth plate. In some versions, she drives her murderer to madness, while in other versions she's freed from her torment by an exorcist.

However, the most popular version of the story is the 1916 kabuki adaptation. In this romantic re-imagining of the original story, Okiku is a young maid in love with Aoyama. Aoyama promises to marry her, but the jealous and immature Okiku decides to test his love by breaking one of his family's valuable plates. At first, Aoyama believes that she broke the plate by accident and intends to forgive her, but when she reveals that it was all a test, he kills her in a fit of rage and throws her body into a well. Okiku still haunts Aoyama by counting from one to nine in this version, but when a sorrowful Aoyama follows the ghost into the garden, he finds that her jealous, vengeful soul has been soothed in death. He then commits suicide to be with her forever.

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CHAPTER 7

CHUUZENJI AKIHIKO...

PART-TIME BOOKSTORE OWNER, PART-TIME EXORCIST.

狂骨の夢 4

原作 京極夏彦　作画 志水アキ

AND I BET HE COULD SOLVE THE GOLDEN SKULL CASE, TOO!

I KNOW SOMEBODY WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THE TRUTH BEHIND THE GROUP SUICIDE INCIDENT!

I'VE GOTTA ADMIT, THE SUICIDE CASE JUST DOESN'T INTEREST ME AS MUCH...

I WANT TO GO BACK TO ZUSHI AND INVESTIGATE THAT SKULL CASE!

TOKYO POLICE

I'VE RECEIVED SOME RATHER STRANGE INFORMATION ABOUT THE UDAGAWA TAKASHI MURDER CASE...

I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

RING RING

THAT VOICE... ISHII-SAN?

Kiba-kun?

HELLO, YOU'VE REACHED THE AZABU INVESTI-GATIVE DIVISION ...

WAIT, WHAT!?
THE STONE IS MISSING!?
ARE YOU SHITTING ME!?

HUH, OKAY...
THERE WAS BLOOD ON A STONE?

THE GROUND WAS DISTURBED, TOO, LIKE SOMEONE HAD BEEN DIGGING THROUGH THE ROCKS.
BUT...
AND THE REST OF THE BLOOD AT THE SCENE MUST HAVE BEEN WASHED AWAY BY RAIN.

THE WIFE SAID THAT A STONE IN THE GARDEN WAS COVERED WITH UDAGAWA'S BLOOD, BUT NOW THE STONE IS GONE.
I ASSURE YOU, I'M VERY SERIOUS!
I'VE ONLY JUST LEARNED OF THIS NEWS.

NOTE DNA testing obviously didn't exist in the 1950s, but simple blood typing could be used to roughly determine whether blood was human or animal and who it might belong to.

I'm ashamed to admit it, but...
I think I'm in over my head with this case.
I'd really appreciate your help.

WE'RE INVESTI-GATING THAT RIGHT NOW.
WHAT!?
OTHER PEOPLE'S BLOOD!?
WHOSE!?

IN THE SHED UNDER THE VERANDA, WE FOUND BLOODSTAINS BELONGING TO MULTIPLE PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT UDAGAWA TAKESHI.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT STONE...?

MAYBE THE WIFE WAS LYING...

THIS CASE KEEPS GETTING MORE AND MORE BIZARRE...

THE VICTIM'S BLOOD HAS DISAPPEARED, BUT NOW THEY'VE FOUND BLOOD FROM MULTIPLE OTHER PEOPLE?

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?

CLICK

FLIP

I'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

Futagoyama Group Suicide Incident Investigative Report

DAMN IT!!

HM...

SHUU-SAN, SHUU-SAN! I HAVE NEW INFOR-MATION!

HUH? WHAT IS IT?

IT LOOKS LIKE A PRIEST CALLED "YAMADA SHUNSHIN" WAS INVOLVED IN THIS SUICIDE CASE SOMEHOW...

I GUESS WE OUGHTA LOOK INTO HIS BACKGROUND.

WHAT!?

IT TOOK A WHILE TO RESEARCH, SINCE HE'S NOT ORIGINALLY FROM TOKYO.

IT'S ABOUT YAMADA SHUNSHIN'S BACK-GROUND.

WELL, WHERE IS IT?

YAMADA SHUNSHIN, AKA YAMADA HARUO-SAN, WAS RAISED BY RELATIVES IN THE OOMORI DISTRICT OF TOKYO, BUT HE WASN'T BORN THERE.

AFTER HE COMPLETED HIS EDUCATION, HE RETURNED TO HIS HOMETOWN.

HIS RELATIVES HAVE ALL DIED OUT, BUT I WAS ABLE TO FIGURE OUT WHERE HE WAS FROM..

WHAT ABOUT HIS FATHER?

SHUNSHIN-SAN'S MOTHER DIED WHEN HE WAS BORN, SO HE WAS SENT AWAY TO LIVE WITH RELATIVES.

IN NAGANO PRE-FECTURE, NEAR UEDA...

A TOWN CALLED SHIMO-NOGOU.

HE'S NOW RETIRED, BUT HE USED TO WORK AS THE MASTER BREWER FOR THE KAMOTA LIQUOR COMPANY.

HE'S AN EXPERT SAKE BREWER.

HIS FATHER IS STILL ALIVE AND LIVING IN UEDA.

HIS NAME IS YAMADA TOMO-KICHI.

WHY DOES THAT NAME SOUND FAMILIAR?

huh?

KAMOTA ...

KAMOTA LIQUORS ...?

!!

AKEMI-SAN USED TO BE AN APPRENTICE AT THE KAMOTA LIQUOR COMPANY.

UDAGAWA AKEMI WAS AN APPREN-TICE AT THAT SHOP!!

THE MURDERER USED TO WORK THERE!

HM?

HOLY SHIT...

!

THAT COMPANY ...

DID HIS FATHER ID THE BODY?

NO.

USING CRIME SCENE PHOTOS, WE WERE ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT YAMADA HARUO-SAN WAS AMONG THE THOSE WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE...

I WONDER IF UDAGAWA'S WIFE HAS ANY RELATION TO THE GROUP SUICIDE CASE...?

OH MY ...

I SEE ...

IT CLOSED DOWN A FEW MONTHS AGO.

THAT COMPANY SEEMS SUSPI-CIOUS...

BUT OTHER PEOPLE IN THE TOWN REMEMBERED HARUO-SAN.

HIS FATHER, TOMOKICHI, STUBBORNLY REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH INVESTI-GATORS.

ACCOR-DING TO THE LOCALS,

HE'S JUST A STRANGE, BAD-TEMPERED OLD MAN.

WHY DID THE FATHER REFUSE?

LIKE WHAT?

BUT I HAVE A FEELING THAT THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT...

WELL, IT'S JUST AN INTUITION.

BUT I THINK THE KAMOTA LIQUOR COMPANY IS SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO THE GROUP SUICIDE CASE IN FUTAGO-YAMA.

甲鳥

SO...

.....

I'D BETTER KEEP INVESTI-GATING.

I THINK NAGATO'S STARTING TO GO SENILE...

IT DOSN'T MAKE SENSE...

A LINK BETWEEN THE LIQUOR COMPANY AND THE SUICIDE CASE?

DECE-MBER 9TH

TOK
POL

HUH?

COM-ING!

IT'S ISHII-SAN FROM THE KANAGAWA PRECINCT!

KIBA, IT'S FOR YOU!

RING RING

WHISPER

NO... ACTUALLY, I'M CALLING ABOUT THE OTHER CASE...

REMEMBER THE SEVERED HEAD FOUND FLOATING IN ZUSHI BAY?

WE'VE IDENTIFIED THE VICTIM...

HEY, WHAT'S UP?

DID YOU FIND THAT STONE FROM UDAGAWA'S GARDEN?

DID YOU FIND OUT WHERE THAT OTHER BLOOD CAME FROM?

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING YOURSELF INVOLVED IN NOW?

RECENTLY, THOUGH, HE LOST HIS JOB AND SPENT HIS DAYS DRINKING...

HE WAS LAST SEEN ON NOVEMBER 27TH.

WHISPER

HE WAS A CON ARTIST IN YOKOHAMA, BUT ABOUT 6 MONTHS AGO HE CAME HERE TO WORK AS A FUUTAROU.

"FUUTAROU" IS JUST A NICKNAME THAT LOCALS GIVE TO DOCK WORKERS AT THE HARBOR.

HIS REAL NAME WAS YAZAWA SHUNROKU.

"FUU-TAROU?" WEIRD NAME...

REALLY !?

CAN YOU TELL ME ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT HIM?

YEAH, THAT'S SHUNROKU.

BUT ...

NOT REALLY... WE HEARD THERE WAS SOME GOOD-PAYING WORK IN KAMAKURA, SO WE WAS GONNA GO THERE.

COME WITH ME.

YOU THERE.

ONE NIGHT, A WEIRD GUY SHOWED UP AND OFFERED US WORK.

HM...

HUH? JUST HIM?

CAN'T TELL YOU!

HA HA

WHAT KIND OF WORK IS IT?

YOU GONNA GO BACK?

YUP! ♪

HAHA! THAT JOB WAS EASY MONEY!

HE CAME BACK THE NEXT DAY, DRUNK OFF HIS ASS.

WHY'S SHUNROKU SO LUCKY?

TCH. WHAT-EVER.

THAT AFTERNOON, HE WENT BACK TO THAT JOB...

AND NOBODY'S SEEN HIM SINCE.

'CAUSE I'M BETTER THAN YOU!

It's also possible that the golden skull and the severed heads found in the bay are entirely unrelated cases...

But he has an alibi for the night of the group suicide.

Well, on the night that the golden skull was found, a witness saw the local pastor, Shiraoka Ryouichi, behaving very suspiciously.

THE POLICE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR THE MAN WHO OFFERED YAZAWA THAT JOB.

We're considering everything at this point.

.....

ANY LEADS?

HUH?

SHUU-SAN, SHUU-SAN!

MAY I TROUBLE YOU FOR A MOMENT?

tiptoe

THIS IS TOO MUCH...

MAN, I'M TIRED...

plop

KAMOTA LIQUORS WAS ESTABLISHED DURING THE LATE EDO PERIOD, AND THE BUSINESS WAS IN OPERATION UP UNTIL THIS FALL.

DURING THE WAR, THEY HAD A MAXIMUM OF 63 EMPLOYEES.

INCLUDING FAMILY MEMBERS, THE TOTAL WAS 187.

THAT'S A LOT OF PAPER.

WHAT'S ALL THIS?

THIS IS INFORMATION ON EVERYONE INVOLVED WITH THE KAMOTA LIQUOR COMPANY.

DAMN, HE'S ACTUALLY ONE HELL OF A DETECTIVE...

HUH, I SEE...

THE RECENT ACTIVITIES OF 13 PEOPLE ARE UNKNOWN.

OH NO!

MOST OF THIS DATA IS FROM THE NAGANO PRECINCT'S INVESTIGATION INTO UDAGAWA AKEMI'S MURDER OF SATA NOBUYOSHI AND MUNAKATA TAMIE EIGHT YEARS AGO.

GOD DAMN!

...DID YOU SERIOUSLY INVESTIGATE 187 PEOPLE?

AND THEN THERE'S SAGIMIYA KUNITAKA, THE NEPHEW OF THE OWNER OF KAMOTA LIQUORS.

HE REMAINED WTH THE ARMY UNTIL HE WAS DEMOBILIZED IN 1948, BUT HIS WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN.

NEXT IS MUNAKATA TAMIE'S BROTHER, KENZOU.

AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, HE WAS WITH THE ARMY IN CHINA.

HE'S ON THE LIST OF SOLDIERS WHO WERE REPATRIATED AFTER THE WAR, BUT THAT'S THE LAST RECORD OF HIM.

HIS PARENTS DIED SOME TIME AFTER THE INCIDENT.

NEXT IS SATA AKEMI.

SHE'S CURRENTLY UNDER ARREST FOR THE MURDER OF HER HUSBAND.

FIRST IS MUNAKATA TAMIE, WHO DISAPPEARED IN 1944.

INCLUDING YAMADA HARUO-SAN, THERE ARE 9 OTHERS.

FIVE MEN AND FOUR WOMEN.

AS FOR HARUO-SAN, HE WAS LAST SEEN IN 1946 AT THE HOME OF THE TAKANO FAMILY.

THE OTHER 8 EMPLOYEES QUIT THE STORE AFTER THE WAR AND THERE ARE NO FURTHER RECORDS OF THEM.

THERE WERE 5 MEN AND 5 WOMEN FOUND DEAD AT THE FUTAGOYAMA SUICIDE CASE, RIGHT?

SIP

COINCI-DENCE ...?

OR SOME-THING MORE SINIS-TER?

!

I MEAN...

IT'S PROBABLY JUST A COINCIDENCE, RIGHT?

WHO KNOWS ...

LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE MORE INVESTI-GATING TO DO.

DECE-
MBER
10TH

sigh

WERE ALL OF THE VICTIMS OF THE GROUP SUICIDE CASE FORMER EMPLOYEES OF KAMOTA LIQUORS?

THAT'S CRAZY...

NO WAY!

MAN, ISHII IS DUMPING ALL OF HIS HARD CASES ON ME...

sigh

I'M STUCK IN THE OFFICE WHEN I COULD BE OUT INVESTIGATING...

tiptoe

THE MORE INFOR-
MATION I GET, THE LESS IT ALL MAKES SENSE...

GONNA KILL ISHII...

SHUU-
SAN, MAY I HAVE A MOMENT?

YEAH, WHAT IS IT?

EIGHT OF THEM WERE FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE KAMOTA LIQUOR COMPANY.

OF THE TEN PEOPLE WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE, INCLUDING YAMADA HARUO-SAN...

WHAT THE FUCK !?

INCIDENTALLY, THE OTHER TWO VICTIMS WERE TAKANO YAE FROM OOMORI, AND THE DAUGHTER OF A LIQUOR STORE OWNER FROM HONGOU.

THEY WERE ID'ED BY PHOTO SO WE CAN'T BE 100% SURE, BUT...

DROP

THIS IS MAKING EVEN LESS SENSE THAN IT DID BEFORE!!

AND WHAT ABOUT THAT KNIFE WITH THE CHRYSAN-THEMUM CREST?

WHY WERE NEARLY ALL OF THE VICTIMS OF THE GROUP SUICIDE INCIDENT INVOLVED WITH LIQUOR STORES!?

WE'RE NOT OBLIGATED TO HELP THEM OR ANYTHING.

I SUPPOSE WE COULD JUST LEAVE IT ALL TO THE HAYAMA POLICE.

WELL,

KIBA, GET THE PHONE!

IT'S ISHII-SAN!

RING RING

FUCK MY LIFE...

SIGH

FLOP

DAMN IT, AT THIS POINT, I JUST WANT TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY!

whisper

I suspected that from the start!

Of course,

whisper

whisper

It's about the results of Udagawa Akemi's psychiatric evaluation...

The doctor concluded that her "madness" is all an act.

Possibilty of Pre-medidated Murder

Experts Claim That Suspect Udagawa Akemi Shows No Signs of Mental Impairment

Udagawa Takashi Murder Investigation

IS THIS CASE EVER GOING TO GET SOLVED?

DECEMBER 11TH

IS IT ISHII-SAN AGAIN?

TELL HIM TO SOLVE HIS OWN DAMNED CASES!

FML

UGH, ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

KIBA! THE PHONE'S FOR YOU!

FURU-HATA?

IT'S SOMEONE CALLED "FURU-HATA."

NO...

WHOA, I WASN'T EXPECTING TO GET A CALL FROM YOU!

WE USED TO PLAY TOGETHER AS KIDS!

WELL, IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

LIKE OUR DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE?

A DREAM ?

SHUU-SAN...

DO YOU REMEMBER THE DREAM I TOLD YOU ABOUT?

UM...

DAMN IT, I FORGOT ...

I GUESS YOU DON'T.

UH, SORRY ...

IT'S FINE.

.....

?

"SHE?"

WHO'S "SHE?"

SHE CAME TO ME.

OH YEAH ?

...IN ANY CASE, I'M UNEMPLOYED AND LIVING AT A CHURCH NOW...

DROP

WH-WHAT!?

WHY!?

UDA-GAWA AKEMI.

THE WOMAN WHO KILLED UDAGAWA TAKASHI.

老薬学

TELL ME.

TELL ME EVERY-THING SHE SAID.

SO SHE CAME TO THE CHURCH FOR COUN-SELING.

IT WAS RIGHT BEFORE THE MURDER ...

SHE, TOO, HAD BEEN PLAGUED BY BIZARRE DREAMS, AND THEY WEIGHED HEAVILY ON HER HEART.

NOT ONLY ARE YOU CONNECTED TO AKEMI...

THAT PASTOR FROM THE GOLDEN SKULL CASE IS INVOLVED SOMEHOW TOO.

THIS CASE KEEPS GETTING WEIRDER.

DAMN IT...

WHY SKULLS!? WHAT DOES IT MEAN!?

EVERYTHING KEEPS COMING BACK TO SKULLS...

SKULLS, SKULLS, SKULLS...

GULP

.....

RYOU-SAN IS AN EMOTIONAL WRECK RIGHT NOW...

I DIDN'T KNOW WHO ELSE TO TALK TO.

IS THAT?

WHO ...

HE'S AN EXPERT IN ALL KINDS OF WEIRD SHIT.

HE'LL FIGURE THIS OUT.

ALRIGHT, FURUHATA!

THERE'S SOMEBODY I WANT YOU TO MEET.

SLAM

Sign: "Kyougokudou"

京極堂

京極堂

DOES HE HAVE ANOTHER VISITOR?

SLIDE

HM?

PLEASE COME IN!

SEKI-GUCHI ...

AND ISAMA?

THAT IDIOT DETEC-TIVE?

OH ...

ENO-SAN SENT ME.

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU!

FLOP

BUT SEKIGUCHI'S ALWAYS HANGING AROUND HERE.

HOW THE HELL ...!?

HE KNOWS HER TOO!?

AKE-MI!?

WE NEED ALL THE INFOR-MATION WE CAN GET.

ISAMA-KUN HAS ALSO MET AKEMI-SAN.

OH...RIGHT. THIS IS FURUHATA.

NICE TO MEET YOU.

HE'S A CHILD-HOOD FRIEND.

IN ANY CASE, BOSS, SHOULDN'T YOU INTRO-DUCE YOUR GUEST?

SEKIGUCHI-KUN AND ISAMA-KUN SHOULD INTRODUCE THEMSELVES AS WELL.

THIS MAN HERE IS THE FAMOUS HORROR NOVELIST, SEKIGUCHI TATSUMI-SENSEI.

STOP IT, KYOUGOKU-DOU...

I'M CHUU-ZENJI AKIHIKO.

I'VE ALREADY HEARD MOST OF THE STORY FROM DETECTIVE KIBA.

I OWN A BOOK-STORE, BUT MY SIDE JOB IS DOING EXOR-CISMS.

REALLY? I'VE READ YOUR WORK.

I...

OH MY GOD...

I CAN'T EVEN...

SO HOW DOES A WOMAN LIKE AKEMI MEET A GUY WHO SELLS FISH BAIT?

I'M ISAMA!

I RUN A FISHING SHOP.

NICE TO MEET YOU.

BOSS, IT'S REALLY NOT IMPORTANT.

TELL ME!!

I... UM...

WELL ...

DAMN IT, WHY ARE YOU BLUSHING!?

UM ...

FURUHATA-SAN...

WE'RE GATHERED HERE BECAUSE WE ALL HAVE A CONNECTION TO THIS CASE.

WE'RE GOING TO SHARE INFORMATION AND BRAINSTORM UNTIL WE SOLVE IT.

!

I THINK YOUR DREAM MAY BE THE KEY TO THIS MYSTERY.

THE DREAMS ARE VIVID...

VISCE-RAL...

AND DEEPLY OMINOUS .....

FROM AN EARLY AGE, YOU'VE HAD A STRANGE RECURRING DREAM...

A MOUN-TAIN OF SKULLS,

NUDE MEN AND WOMEN,

MYSTER-IOUS CHANT-ING,

CARNAL ACTS.

AS I UNDER-STAND IT,

.....

HUH?

SEKI-GUCHI-KUN, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Y-YES, I SUPPOSE SO.

YOU'VE DEVOTED HALF YOUR LIFETIME TO TRYING TO INTERPRET THESE DREAMS,

RIGHT ?

MUMBLE

DON'T ASK ME WHY I THINK THAT...

I JUST DO...

MUMBLE

I GUESS IT'S RELATED TO THIS CASE SOMEHOW...?

UM... HOW CAN I SAY THIS...

MUMBLE

.....

HE'S ALWAYS SO HESITANT WHEN HE TALKS...

?

sip

...
HUH?

SEKIGUCHI-KUN IS CORRECT.

THE DREAM IS INDEED CONNECTED TO THIS CASE.

CHUUZENJI-SAN, WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?

THERE ARE MANY WAYS OF INTER-PRETING DREAMS.

BUT THOSE EARLY WORKS ARE ALL JUST SUPER-STITIOUS NONSENSE, AREN'T THEY?

THERE'S MORE TO DREAM INTER-PRETATION THAN FREUD AND JUNG.

FOR INSTANCE, THE JEWISH "TALMUD" ADDRESSES DREAM INTER-PRETATION, THE ANCIENT GREEK SORCEROR ARTEMIDORUS CREATED A DICTIONARY OF DREAMS, AND THE PERSIAN KING ASSURBANIPAL MADE RECORDS OF HIS PROPHETIC DREAMS.

IN THE BIBLE, DANIEL INTERPRETS THE DREAMS OF KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.

DURING THE MIDDLE AGES, THERE WAS THE DREAM-BOOK OF SAINT GERMANUS AND THE DREAM-BOOK OF SAINT NIKEPHOROS...

AH, BUT SUPER-STITIOUS NONSENSE CAN BE A PATH TO *DEEPER TRUTHS.*

OF COURSE, THE INTER-PRETATION OF DREAMS VARIES BY CULTURE AND ERA.

OF COURSE... BUT I'M NOT LIVING IN ANCIENT JUDEA OR ANCIENT GREECE, AM I?

I HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR FREUD AS A PHILO-SOPHER AND A WRITER.

BUT I THINK IT'S RIDICULOUS TO DEFINE PEOPLE BY THEIR SEXUAL URGES.

TCH!

YOU DON'T ACCEPT FREUD'S THEORIES!?

NO, BUT YOU'RE ALSO NOT AN AUSTRIAN JEW, SO WHY DOES FREUD MATTER TO YOU?

YOU PROJECT YOUR FEARS ONTO OTHERS SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE THEM YOURSELF.

WHAT ...!?

SEKIGUCHI-KUN HAS THAT TENDENCY AS WELL, SO I HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM...

WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?

SHALL I *PSYCHO-ANALYZE* YOU, FURUHATA-SAN?

POS-SESSED ?

I SUPPOSE THAT'S TRUE.

LIKE AKEMI-SAN, YOU'VE BEEN POS-SESSED.

I HAVE ANY CON-TROL OVER IT.

IT'S NOT LIKE ...

AH, YOU DON'T LIKE IT WHEN THE TABLES ARE TURNED ON YOU.

IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS CASE!!

THIS GUY HAS BEEN DREAMING ABOUT WEIRD SHIT FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS!

OH COME ON, KYOU-GOKU!

...NOT REALLY.

!?

BUT FIRST... FURUHATA-SAN, DO YOU BELIEVE IN A RELIGION?

I'LL EXPLAIN IN A MOMENT.

TWENTY-NINE YEARS, TO BE EXACT?

HUH? HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

NOT TO MY KNOW-LEDGE.

HAVE YOU EVER ATTENDED ANY BUDDHIST RITUALS?

SPECIFICALLY OF THE SHINGON SECT?

WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?

MY MOTHER WAS CATHOLIC, BUT SHE WASN'T ESPECIALLY DEVOUT.

.....

WHAT?

ONE MORE THING...

WHERE WERE YOU AT THE TIME OF THE GREAT TAISHO EARTH-QUAKE IN 1923?

WAIT, SHUU-SAN.

THIS MIGHT BE IMPORTANT.

1923? I WAS FIVE OR SIX AT THE TIME...

CAN WE GET BACK ON TOPIC, KYOUGOKU!?

SLAM

I REMEMBER BEING TERRIFIED ...

NO... I REMEMBER, BUT... IT'S HAZY.

PERHAPS YOU'VE BLOCKED THOSE MEMORIES?

HUH?

WHY CAN'T I REMEMBER?

I REMEMBER THE QUAKE...

AND SINCE IT HIT TOKYO, I MUST HAVE BEEN THERE.

WAIT ...

NO...

BUT YOU WEREN'T IN TOKYO WHEN THE EARTHQUAKE HAPPENED, WERE YOU?

AH!

REALLY? THEN WERE YOU IN KANAGAWA, FURUHATA-SAN?

ACTUALLY, KANAGAWA WAS STRUCK BY THE 1923 EARTHQUAKE TOO.

IF HE REMEMBERS THE QUAKE, HE MUST HAVE BEEN IN TOKYO, RIGHT?

I SUSPECT ... THAT YOU'VE SUP-PRESSED THOSE MEMORIES.

WHAT?

?

I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS ODD FROM THE MOMENT I HEARD ABOUT YOU.

IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE YOU THAT YOU DESPERATELY DON'T WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE.

I'VE BROUGHT SOME TEA.

NO, THAT'S ...

WH...

WHAT !?

I'M SURE IT WILL COME BACK TO YOU.

WE'RE HERE TO DISCUSS THE CASE, SO LET'S GET STARTED.

ANY-WAY,

MEOW

Pat

IT ALL STARTED WHEN UDAGAWA-SENSEI CONTACTED ME...

UM ...

I DON'T EXPECT A COMPLETELY OBJECTIVE REPORT FROM YOU, BUT TRY NOT TO EMBELLISH IT TOO MUCH, ALRIGHT?

EVERYTHING I'VE HEARD IS JUST HEARSAY, SO I'LL LET YOU ALL SHARE WHAT YOU KNOW.

WHY DON'T WE START WITH SEKIGUCHI-KUN?

LIKE THE BLOOD-STAINED STONE IN THE GARDEN.

OR THE DIFFERENCE IN OPINION BETWEEN FURUHATA AND THE OTHER DOCTOR WHO EVALUATED SATA AKEMI.

I GUESS WE SHOULD FOCUS ON THE INCONGRUITIES AND DISCREPANCIES.

ALRIGHT ...

SO NOW THAT WE'VE HEARD EVERYBODY'S TESTIMONY,

ASSUMING THAT HE WASN'T LYING, HE MUST HAVE SEEN *SOMEONE'S* BLOOD IN THE GARDEN.

SUPPOSEDLY THE BLOOD BELONGED TO AKEMI'S LONG-DEAD EX-HUSBAND.

AND THE BLOOD-STAINS THAT UDAGAWA SAW...

BUT INSTEAD OF THE WIFE COMING BACK AS A GHOST, IT'S THE EX-HUSBAND!

AND ALL THIS CRAP ABOUT PEOPLE RETURNING FROM THE DEAD SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING STRAIGHT OUT OF "YOTSUYA KAIDAN."

LET ME GUESS, THE MURDERER IS REALLY THE HEROINE'S EVIL RIVAL?

SWIPE

BUT IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN MENTIONING THE BLOOD JUST MAKES HER LOOK EVEN MORE SUSPICIOUS...

AND NOW THE STONE IS MISSING.

WHY WOULD HE LIE ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

MAYBE AKEMI AND UDAGAWA WERE CONSPIRING FOR SOME REASON?

PERHAPS THERE'S TRUTH IN FICTION.

FURUHATA-SAN...

YOU SAID THAT SHIRAOKA-SAN CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN "SHINTO PRIESTS IN DIRTY ROBES" AT KAGITORI MYOUJIN SHRINE IN KUCHINOTO?

THAT'S RIGHT.

...I THOUGHT YOU HATED GHOST STORIES, KYOUGOKU?

ANYWAY, THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I'D LIKE TO CONFIRM.

SCRATCH

HM...

I FEEL LIKE THAT MUST BE A CLUE...

THAT'S RIGHT.

I THINK I REMEMBERED THE NAMES OF THE TEMPLES.

THE PRIESTS SEEMED TO BE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING...

THEY WENT TO ZENKOUJI TEMPLE AND IKUSHIMA-TARUSHIMA SHRINE IN SHINANO, HIRAKATA SHRINE IN ECHIGO, AND SUWA SHRINE IN TOHOKU, RIGHT?

"OM MAKA-KYARA SOWAKA ?"

FURUHATA-SAN, THERE WAS AN INCANTATION REPEATED IN YOUR DREAM, CORRECT?

.....

MAYBE IT'S A *CLUE!*

SO THIS PASTOR SHIRAOKA GUY WAS HAVING WEIRD DREAMS TOO?

MAYBE IT'S A SHARED DELU-SION?

HE'S OFF TOPIC AGAIN...

ONE MORE QUESTION...

AFTER THE MURDER OF SATA NOBU-YOSHI EIGHT YEARS AGO, WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS SICK FATHER?

I'M NOT SURE YET...

.....

YES, THAT'S RIGHT...

BUT HOW IS THAT RELEVANT?

AKEMI-SAN MENTIONED THAT HE SUFFERED FROM HANSEN'S DISEASE.

THAT'S LEPROSY ...

HM... INTER-ESTING.

NOTE Leprosy, AKA Hansen's Disease, is a bacterial infection that causes skin lesions. Over time, the damage to nerves can lead to loss of fingers and limbs. Sufferers were traditionally kept in isolation.

THERE'S STILL A LOT OF PREJUDICE AGAINST PEOPLE WITH LEPROSY IN THAT PART OF THE COUNTRY, RIGHT?

I'M SURPRISED THAT AKEMI-SAN MARRIED INTO THAT FAMILY.

IT'S BELIEVED TO BE THE RESULT OF A CURSE OR A SPIRIT POSSESSION, ISN'T IT?

.....

MAYBE SHE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT HIS CONDITION.

NOBYOSHI'S FATHER WAS PROBABLY KEPT HIDDEN FROM PUBIC VIEW.

THEY COULD HAVE USED FOLK REMEDIES ...

PERHAPS NOBUYOSHI TREATED HIS FATHER HIMSELF.

HE'D HAVE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE ...

WOULDN'T SHE LEAVE ONCE SHE FOUND OUT?

IT'S AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE THAT CAUSES OPEN SORES AND PUS...

AND IF HE WAS IN HIDING, HE'D HAVE NO MEDICAL TREATMENT, SO IT WOULD BE EVEN WORSE...

AKEMI-SAN DID MAKE IT SOUND LIKE HER HUSBAND WAS UNUSUALLY DEVOTED TO HIS FATHER.

BUT HE WAS IMPRESSED BY NOBU-YOSHI'S FILIAL DEVOTION, AND SO HE ARRANGED A MARRIAGE TO AKEMI.

KAMOTA SHUUZOU MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT NOBUYOSHI'S FATHER WAS A LEPER...

EVEN THOUGH NOBUYOSHI WAS A DESERTER ON THE RUN FROM THE ARMY, HE RISKED RETURNING HOME TO CHECK ON HIS FATHER.

THE OLD MAN WAS TOO SICK TO SPEAK, BUT NOBUYOSHI COULD STILL UNDERSTAND HIM.

UNUSU-ALLY?

YEAH, IT LOOKED LIKE A REALLY EXPENSIVE ALTAR, TOO.

IT WAS MADE FROM EBONY.

YOU MENTIONED THAT THERE WAS A BUDDHIST ALTAR IN THE ROOM WHERE YOU SLEPT.

ANYWAY, ISAMA-SAN, YOU'VE BEEN TO AKEMI-SAN'S HOME, RIGHT?

HM...

THAT IS UNUSUAL.

YOU THINK SO?

.....

?

ISAMA-SAN, COULD YOU SEE THE GARDEN FROM YOUR ROOM?

YEAH, IT WAS RIGHT OUTSIDE.

IN-DEED.

BUT I BELIEVE THAT THE PLACEMENT OF THE ALTAR IS SIGNIFICANT.

SO WHAT? MOST PEOPLE OWN BUDDHIST ALTARS.

HM ...

AND THE ALTAR WAS EMPTY EXCEPT FOR A BELL?

I COULD SEE THE GARDEN THROUGH THE GLASS.

THE SLIDING DOOR WAS CLOSED, BUT THERE WAS A SMALL WINDOW.

NOTE Bowl-shaped bells called "singing bowls" are often used by Buddhists.

SO THE BELL MUST HAVE CAUGHT THE LIGHT OF THE AFTERNOON SUN...

YEAH. I REMEMBER THE BELL BECAUSE IT WAS REALLY SHINY.

WHY ARE YOU IN A BAD MOOD?

THAT'S ENOUGH, KYOUGOKU!

QUIT GOING OFF ON POINTLESS TANGENTS AND *STAY ON TOPIC!!*

BECAUSE THERE ARE TOO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS!!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BLOOD-STAINED ROCK?

WHO REPORTED THE MURDER?

IF SOMEBODY SAW IT HAPPEN, WHY DIDN'T THEY TRY TO HELP UDAGAWA?

I'M ALREADY IN A BAD ENOUGH MOOD!!

SLAM

WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE GROUP SUICIDE OF EMPLOYEES FROM THE KAMOTA LIQUOR COMPANY AND THE GOLDEN SKULL CASE!?

IT'S ENOUGH TO PUT ANYBODY IN A BAD MOOD!!

WHY WAS WAS THERE NO SIGN OF A STRUGGLE WITH THE KILLER?

WHY WERE UDAGAWA'S CLOTHES FOUND IN THE RIVER WITH A PIECE OF PAPER THAT HAD SEKIGUCHI'S ADDRESS ON IT?

WHY DID UDAGAWA'S AUTOPSY SHOW THAT HE HADN'T EATEN SINCE HE LEFT TOKYO?

FURUHATA-SAN, YOU HAD UNANSWERED QUESTIONS TOO, RIGHT?

...HM.

IS THAT YOUR PROFE-SSIONAL OPINION?

I DON'T THINK SHE'S "CRAZY," BUT I DO THINK SHE'S SUFFERING FROM MENTAL ILLNESS.

I DON'T THINK SHE WAS FAKING HER MADNESS.

YES... I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THE RESULTS OF HER OFFICIAL PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW ANY EXPERT PSYCHOLOGIST COULD FAIL TO SEE THAT SHE'S A VERY SICK WOMAN...

BUT THAT'S THE STATE OF PSYCHOLOGY THESE DAYS.

TALK THERAPY IS BEING PHASED OUT IN FAVOR OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION AND ELECTROSHOCK TREATMENTS.

...YES.

I'VE SPOKEN TO HER FACE-TO-FACE, AND I DON'T THINK SHE WAS LYING.

NO, IT MUST HAVE BEEN AN IMPULSE KILLING.

SO YOU DON'T THINK IT WAS A PRE-MEDITATED MURDER?

I SEE ...

SHE'S TRIED TO SUPPRESS HER TWISTED DESIRES, BUT THEY MANIFEST AS BIZARRE DREAMS OF SKULLS AND DELUSIONS OF BEHEADING HER EX-HUSBAND.

THESE VISIONS HAVE BEEN EATING AWAY AT HER SENSE OF SELF.

I THINK SHE'S A *SADIST* WHO TAKES SEXUAL PLEASURE IN KILLING.

I DON'T THINK SHE WAS PLOTTING TO KILL LIDAGAWA AND CLAIM INNOCENCE BY REASON OF INSANITY.

BUT HER BEHAVIOR WAS ACTUALLY VERY RE-STRAINED.

IF SHE WERE REALLY FEIGNING MADNESS, YOU'D THINK THAT SHE WOULD HAVE TRIED TO ACT CRAZY IN FRONT OF ME.

HUH?

ISAMA-KUN, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HM ...

UM ...

I DON'T THINK SHE'S A SADISTIC KILLER.

A REASON? LIKE WHAT?

UM ...

REVENGE, MAYBE?

OR TRYING TO PROTECT SOMEONE ELSE?

AND I DON'T REALLY THINK SHE'S CRAZY, EITHER...

IF SHE KILLED HIM, SHE MUST HAVE HAD A REASON.

WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?

WELL, UM...

WHAT IF HER DEAD HUSBAND IS ACTUALLY STILL ALIVE, AND HE'S THE ONE WHO KILLED UDAGAWA?

MAYBE SHE WAS TRYING TO COVER IT UP.

SO SHE FAKED MADNESS TO TAKE THE BLAME...

SEKIGUCHI-KUN, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WHY THE HELL ARE YOU BLUSH-ING?

I GOT THE FEELING THAT SHE WAS STILL IN LOVE WITH HER FIRST HUSBAND...

BUT, UM...

GLANCE

UM, I DON'T KNOW...

BASED ON WHAT I HEARD FROM UDAGAWA-SENSEI, I THINK SHE'S SUFFERING FROM SCHIZOPHRENIA, OR MAYBE FROM SOME KIND OF DRUG-INDUCED PSYCHOSIS...

I'M JUST ASKING FOR YOUR IMPRESSIONS, SEKIGUCHI-KUN, NOT A FULL PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION.

BESIDES, SEKIGUCHI-SAN, YOU'VE NEVER MET HER DIRECTLY, AND YOU'RE NOT AN EXPERT.

IT'S POINT-LESS TO SPECU-LATE.

HM ...

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT ...

A SUPER-NATURAL EXPLANATION WOULD BE SIMPLER, WOULDN'T IT?

SIGH

WOULD IT?

WELL, LIKE, MAYBE NOBUYOSHI CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD TO GET REVENGE ON HIS WIFE...

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES SHE KILLED HIM, HE KEPT COMING BACK...

EVENTUALLY, AKEMI-SAN WAS DRIVEN TO THE POINT OF INSANITY, SO SHE SNAPPED AND KILLED THE MAN SHE LOVED...

GULP

IN HER MADNESS, AKEMI-SAN DREAMED OF DYING AND BEING REINCARNATED AS A CHILD IN A SEASIDE TOWN...

THAT EXPLAINS HER MIXED-UP MEMORIES.

AND THE BLOOD IN THE GARDEN COULD HAVE BEEN SOME KIND OF SUPERNATURAL ECTOPLASM, SO IT DISAPPEARED.

HAHA

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?

DID I GET EVERY-THING?

WAS THERE A CURSE ON THE EMPLOYEES OF THE KAMOTA LIQUOR COMPANY?

IF A CURSE COULD KILL TEN PEOPLE, THEN WHY DID AKEMI HAVE TO RESORT TO MURDER?

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN UDAGAWA'S DISCARDED CLOTHING?

DID A GHOST DO THAT TOO?

AND WHAT ABOUT THE GROUP SUICIDE CASE?

SNORT

DAMN IT, THIS MYSTERY JUST KEEPS GETTING WEIRDER.

A SUPER-NATURAL EXPLANATION DOESN'T MAKE SENSE EITHER.

UM...

I DON'T KNOW...

THERE ARE...

NO MYSTERIES IN THIS WORLD.

KYOU-GOKU...

YOU KNOW SOMETHING, DON'T YOU...?

WAIT, ARE YOU SAYING THAT WE'VE BEEN POSSESSED BY A GHOST!?

NO... NOT QUITE.

I STILL NEED TO THINK ABOUT IT.

BUT I THINK THAT AKEMI-SAN, THE PASTOR, AND THE FOUR OF YOU ARE POSSESSED BY THE SAME FORCE.

THIS IS JUST A FOOLISH, SENSELESS TRAGEDY.

WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

DO YOU KNOW SOME-THING?

EH?

FLIP

FLIP

INDEED.

AND BY A MOST UNUSUAL SPIRIT.

IS THE SPIRIT THAT'S AFFECTING YOU.

THIS ...

SPREAD

KYOUKOTSU

THE CRAZY BONES SPIRIT

KYOUKOTSU ARE GHOSTS
WHICH RISE FROM
BONES THAT HAVE BEEN
ABANDONED IN A WELL.

IT IS SAID THAT WHOEVER
COMMITS THE GRAVE SIN
OF ABANDONING THE
DEAD WILL FACE THE
KYOUKOTSU'S WRATH.

IT'S CALLED A "KYOU-KOTSU?"

DAMN IT, MORE SKULLS ...

BONES ...

THEY'RE PROBABLY ALSO RELATED TO A YOUKAI CALLED THE "TSURUBE-BI", WHICH TAKES THE FORM OF A GHOSTLY FLAME THAT BOBS UP AND DOWN LIKE A WELL BUCKET.

THERE'S A SIMILAR YOUKAI CALLED A "TSURUBE-ONNA", AND OVER TIME THEIR LEGENDS CONVERGED INTO ONE.

YES, IT'S A TYPE OF YOUKAI BORN FROM THE GRUDGE OF A CORPSE THAT WAS DUMPED IN A WELL.

THE STORY OF OKIKU, A GIRL THROWN INTO A WELL AS PUNISHMENT FOR BREAKING AN EXPENSIVE PLATE, WAS CERTAINLY BASED ON EARLIER YOUKAI LEGENDS.

BANCHOU SARAYASHIKI IS JUST AN ADAPTATION.

OKIKU WAS A YOUKAI? I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST A GHOST?

I SAW THAT PLAY...

OF COURSE, THE MOST FAMOUS TALE OF A CORPSE THROWN INTO A WELL IS THAT OF OKIKU, THE HEROINE OF THE KABUKI PLAY "BANCHOU SARAYASHIKI."

?

SO I THINK THE THEME OF THE WELL IS SIGNI-FICANT HERE.

IN FOLKLORE, WELLS ARE PLACES OF SPIRITUAL POWER.

THEY'RE SEEN AS A GATEWAY TO THE WORLD OF THE DEAD.

SPIRITS THAT RISE FROM THE WELL ARE MOTIVATED BY REVENGE.

SO BASICALLY...

A "KYOUKOTSU" IS A YOUKAI THAT RETURNS FROM DEATH TO JUMP OUT OF A WELL AND CURSE PEOPLE?

YOU COULD SAY THAT SKELETONS REPRESENT HUMANS WHO HAVE BEEN FREED FROM WORLDLY ATTACHMENTS AND INHI-BITIONS.

SKELETAL CREATURES PROVIDE COMIC RELIEF IN THE CLASSIC JAPANESE NOVEL "THE TALE OF TWO NUNS," AND IN GOETHE'S "FAUST."

BUT SKELETON YOUKAI ARE GENERALLY SEEN AS COMICAL.

THEY DON'T GO AROUND CURSING PEOPLE.

MORE OR LESS.

THE KYOU-KOTSU IS OFTEN CONFUSED WITH OTHER TYPES OF SKELETON YOUKAI.

NOTE In ancient Roman mythology, "lemures" were the wandering spirits of those who were not given proper funeral rites. But in "Faust," the 19th-century German writer Goethe depicted lemures as snarky undead sidekicks to the demon Mephistopholes.

OKAY, BUT WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH THE CASE?

DOES IT HAVE *ANYTHING* TO DO WITH THE CASE?

SO THE KYOUKOTSU IS ESSENTIALLY A FUSION OF THREE DIFFERENT YOUKAI STORIES: THE EPHEMERAL "TSURUBE-BI," THE VENGEFUL GHOST OF OKIKU, AND THE WILD AND FREE SKELETON SPIRITS.

I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T SAY THAT THE SKULL IN THIS CASE REPRESENTS FREEDOM FROM WORLDLY ATTACHMENTS AND INHIBITIONS.

QUITE THE OPPOSITE, ACTUALLY.

WELL ...

WHO NEEDS THAT IDIOT DETEC-TIVE?

I ASKED ATSUKO AND ENO-SAN TO COME.

I WONDER IF THEY'RE HERE YET...

HM ...

GULP

SLAM

!!

HEY, I HEARD THAT YOU DORKS NEEDED SOME HELP!

WA HA HA HA HA

YOU CERTAINLY DON'T SEEM TO MIND MY HELP WHEN IT'S CONVENIENT FOR YOU, KIBASHUU!!

TCH

NOBODY ASKED YOU...

SHOCK

Ooh!!
Hata-chan,
is that you!?

Y...

YOU'RE
...

It's me!
Enokizu
Rei-
jirou!

WA
HA
HA
HA
HA

So
you're still
obsessed
with creepy
dead things,
huh?

And you
still don't
have any
eyebrows!

EYE-
BROWS
...!?

H-HATA-
CHAN?

DON'T FREAK THE POOR GUY OUT.
JUST SIT YOUR ASS DOWN, REI-JIROU...

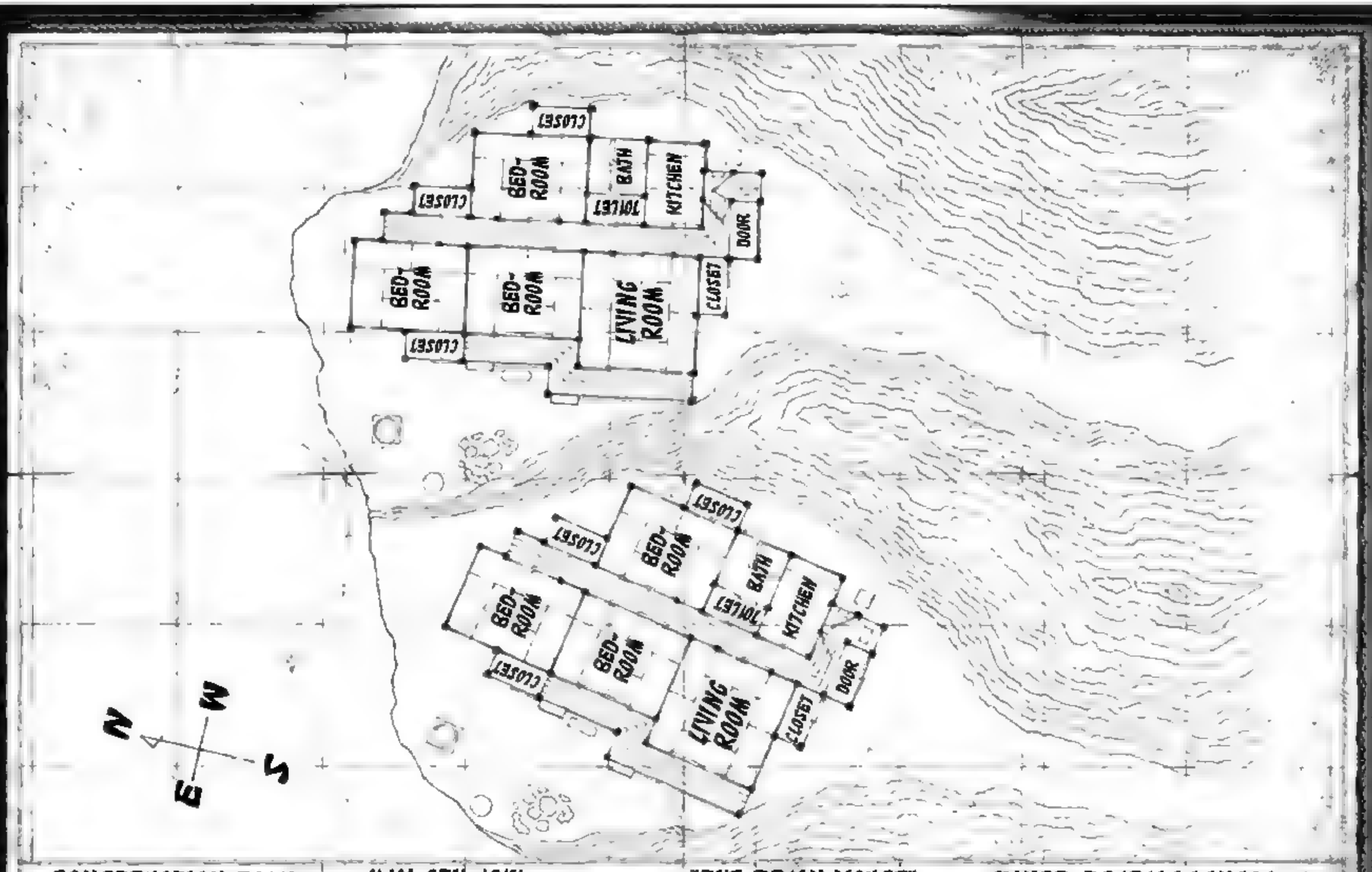
And Seki-kun is in A-chan's spot!
This is all wrong!
I can't sit down!!
Isama-kun is in my spot!

HUH?
A-CHAN?

DID YOU VISIT SENSEI IN TSUKIJI?

AHA, IT APPEARS THAT HE CAN EVEN FIND DRAWINGS ...
HE'S THE GREATEST INTELL-ECTUAL IN ALL OF JAPAN.
IF INFORMATION EXISTS IN A WRITTEN FORM, HE KNOWS WHERE TO FIND IT.

NOTE "Akashi-sensei" is a fictionalized shoutout to the author's real-life friend and literary mentor, Akashi Sanjın. The real Akashi is a novelist, a historian, a filmmaker, a patron of the arts, a public servant, a member of the 2020 Olympic committee... and an expert on Japanese occultism.


CLOSET
BED-ROOM
BATH
TOILET
KITCHEN
DOOR
CLOSET
BED-ROOM
BED-ROOM
LIVING ROOM
CLOSET
CLOSET
BED-ROOM
CLOSET
BED-ROOM
BATH
TOILET
KITCHEN
DOOR
BED-ROOM
BED-ROOM
LIVING ROOM
CLOSET
N
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S
CONSTRUCTION PLAN
MAY 6TH, 1914
"THE BRAIN HOUSE"
OWNER: TSUBAKI KINJOU

WHAT... IS THIS?

IT'S CALLED "THE BRAIN HOUSE."

TSUBAKI KINJOU WAS A POET, BUT HE WAS ALSO A PHYSICIAN.

THE PLANS FOR UDAGAWA TAKASHI'S HOUSE.

HE DIDN'T.

THE HOUSES WERE BUILT BY A WEALTHY TAISHOU-ERA DILETTANTE, TSUBAKI KINJOU.

BUT...

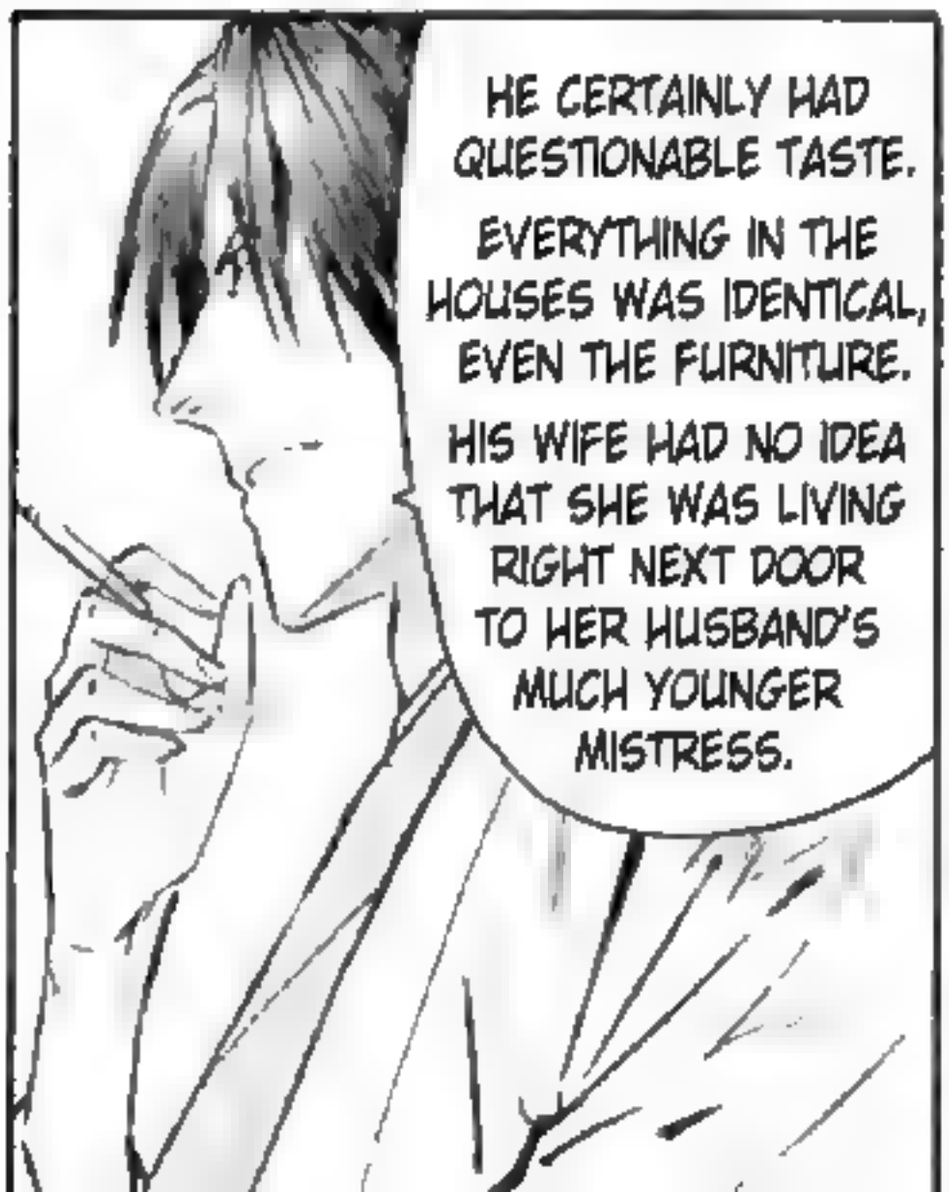
WHY DID HE BUILD *TWO* HOUSES!?

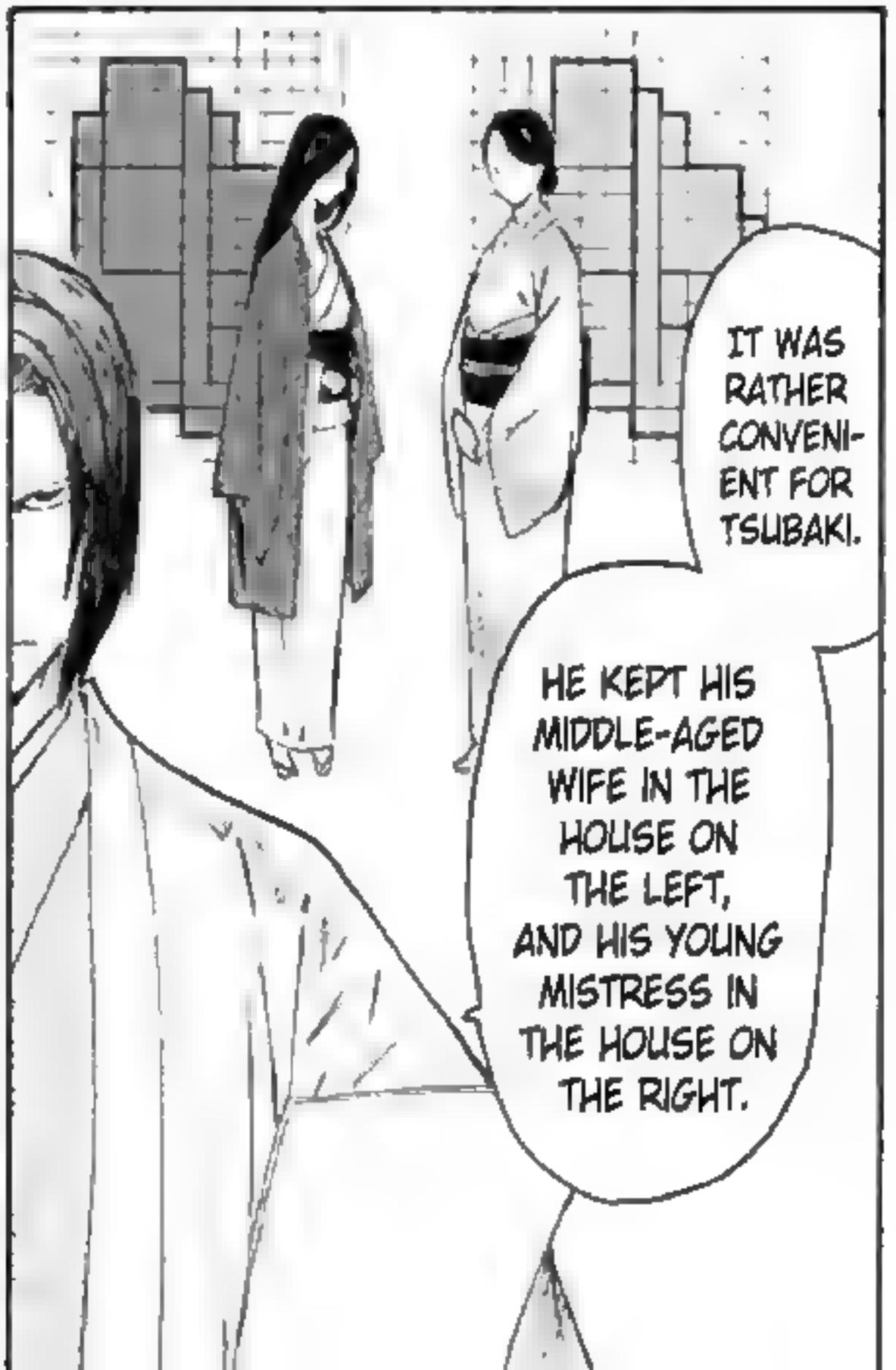
CLOSET
BED ROOM
LIVING ROOM
BED ROOM
CLOSET
CLOSET
DOOR
KITCHEN
TOILET
BATH
BED ROOM
CLOSET
EXACTLY IDENTICAL.
CLOSET
BED ROOM
LIVING ROOM
BED ROOM
CLOSET
CLOSET
TOILET
BATH
KITCHEN
DOOR
IT'S LIKE A PERFECT COPY...

RIGHT ...
ONE OF THE HOUSES BELONGS TO UDAGAWA'S NEIGHBOR, ICHIYANAGI, RIGHT?

WOW, THEY'RE ...

HE SOUNDS LIKE A CREEP.


HE CERTAINLY HAD QUESTIONABLE TASTE.
EVERYTHING IN THE HOUSES WAS IDENTICAL, EVEN THE FURNITURE.
HIS WIFE HAD NO IDEA THAT SHE WAS LIVING RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO HER HUSBAND'S MUCH YOUNGER MISTRESS.


IT WAS RATHER CONVENIENT FOR TSUBAKI.
HE KEPT HIS MIDDLE-AGED WIFE IN THE HOUSE ON THE LEFT, AND HIS YOUNG MISTRESS IN THE HOUSE ON THE RIGHT.

HE LIKED THE IDEA OF LIVING TWO LIVES AT ONCE.

TSUBAKI WANTED TO CREATE A "PARALLEL WORLD" OF PLEASURE FOR HIMSELF.

BUT WHY GO THROUGH ALL OF THAT?

THE HOUSES WERE THE SAME, SO ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS LEAN A BIT TO THE RIGHT AND HE'D ENTER THE PARALLEL WORLD HE'D CREATED.

OR HE COULD GO LEFT TO HIS WIFE.

AS HE NEARED HIS HOME,

HE COULD CHOOSE TO GO RIGHT AND VISIT HIS MISTRESS.

TSUBAKI WAS A DOCTOR, SO IT WOULD HAVE APPEARED THAT WAY TO HIM.

OH... NOW I SEE WHY IT'S CALLED THE "BRAIN HOUSE!"

SEE?

I SUPPOSE IT'S OBVIOUS FROM ABOVE.

NATURALLY, THE HIGH, ROCKY CLIFFS MEANT THAT HE COULDN'T EASILY GO FROM ONE HOUSE TO THE OTHER.

OF COURSE, IF HE'D BUILT TWO HOUSES ANYWHERE ELSE, HIS WIFE WOULD HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THE MISTRESS.

SO HE NEEDED A NATURAL BARRIER.

YES.

OH... DO YOU MEAN THIS ROCK WALL?

HIGH MOUNTAINS

CLOSET
BED-ROOM
CLOSET
BED-ROOM
CLOSET
BED-ROOM
LIVING ROOM
TOILET
BATH
KITCHEN
CLOSET
DOOR

CLOSET
BED-ROOM
CLOSET
BED-ROOM
BED-ROOM
CLOSET
LIVING ROOM
TOILET
BATH
KITCHEN
CLOSET
DOOR

IF THE MISTRESS'S HOUSE IS THE RIGHT BRAIN AND THE WIFE'S HOUSE IS THE LEFT BRAIN, THE WALL BETWEEN THEM IS THE CORPUS CALLOSUM.

AND THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS ARE THE SKULL.

NOT ANOTHER FUCKING SKULL...

NOTE The brain is divided into two halves separated by thin membrabe called the corpus callosum. It was once believed that the left brain governed logic and language while the right brain handled artistic ability and emotion, but there's actually quite a lot of overlap between the sides.

SO TSUBAKI WAS TRYING TO RECAPTURE EVERY DETAIL OF HIS BELOVED CHILDHOOD HOME.

TSUBAKI WAS BORN IN AN IDENTICAL HOUSE IN NORTH KAMA-KURA, BUT THE FAMILY LOST THEIR HOME WHEN HIS FATHER'S BUSINESS FAILED.

THE HOUSES ARE BOTH REPLICAS.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL...

HM ...

A WELL?

RIGHT DOWN TO THE GARDEN PATH AND THE WELL.

AND IT LOOKS AS IF THERE WAS ANOTHER PROBLEM DURING CONSTRUC-TION...

THE STONES IN THE GARDEN.

OF COURSE, YOU CAN'T DIG A WELL SO CLOSE TO THE OCEAN.

SEAWATER WILL FLOW IN, AND THE WELL WILL BE USELESS.

BUT FROM THESE RECORDS, IT SEEMS THAT TSUBAKI INSISTED ON HAVING HIS WELL.

THE WORKERS DUG AN UNUSUALLY DEEP HOLE BEFORE GIVING UP.

INDEED.

THERE WAS A STONE.

ISHII SAID SOME-THING ABOUT A STONE ...

WHAT ABOUT THE STONE!?

DAMN IT...

BUT ACCORDING TO THESE RECORDS, THE BUILDERS WERE UNABLE TO FIND TWO IDENTICAL SETS OF STONES.

LOOK, THE STONES ARE EVEN MARKED ON THE FLOOR PLAN.

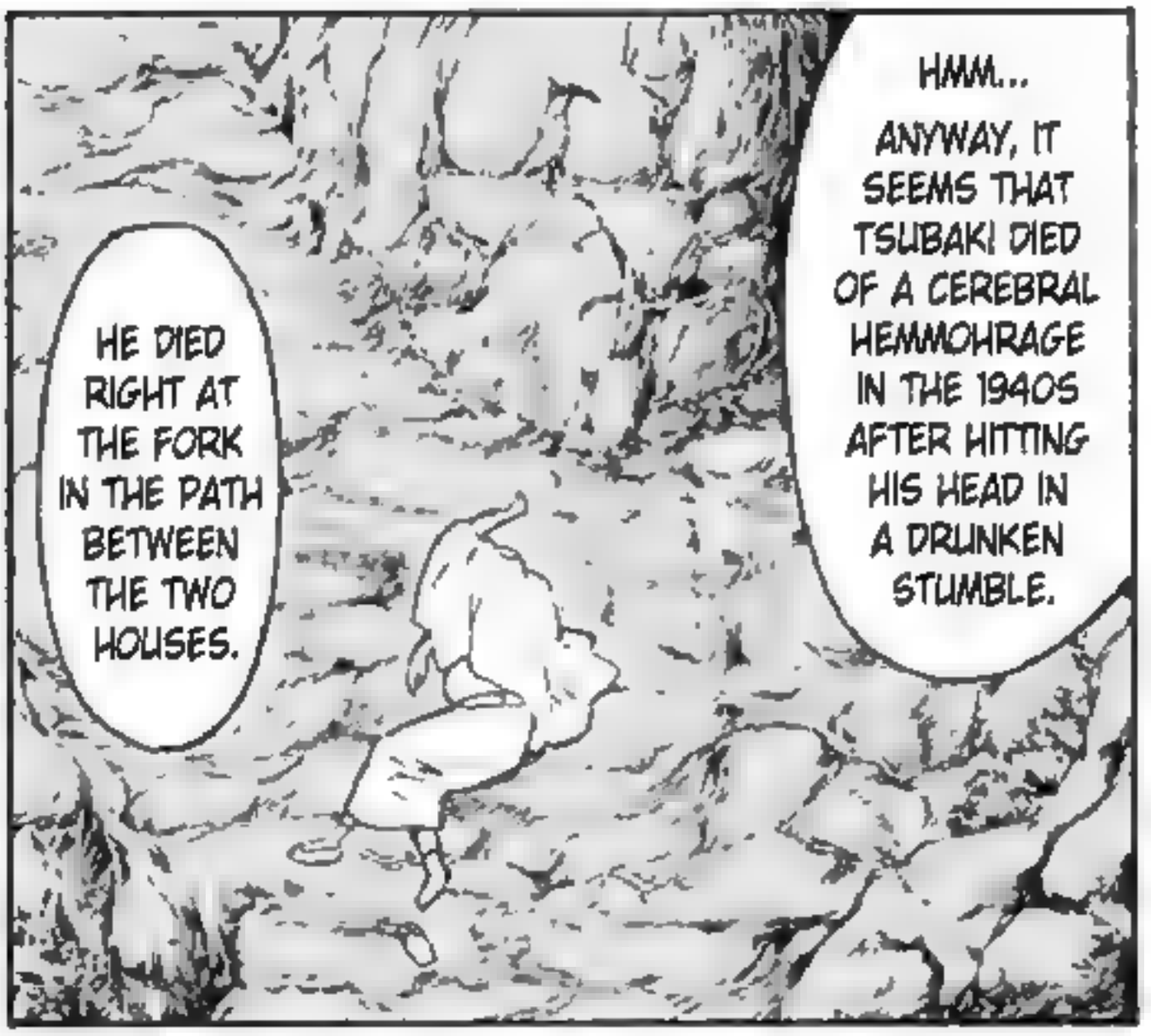
THE WELL?

IT'S PROBABLY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL.

SO THE STONES WERE A BIT DIFFERENT.

BUT THE POLICE INVESTIGATORS SAID THAT THE STONE WAS MISSING WHEN THEY SEARCHED THE HOUSE!

WELL, THAT'S KARMA I SUPPOSE.


HE DIED RIGHT AT THE FORK IN THE PATH BETWEEN THE TWO HOUSES.
HMM... ANYWAY, IT SEEMS THAT TSUBAKI DIED OF A CEREBRAL HEMMOHRAGE IN THE 1940S AFTER HITTING HIS HEAD IN A DRUNKEN STUMBLE.

GOD, I HOPE NOT.
DID TSUBAKI-SAN HAVE ANY CHILD-REN?

EVENTUALLY, UDAGAWA TAKASHI CAME TO RESIDE IN ONE OF THEM.
WHEN THE LEFT AND RIGHT WOMEN FOUND OUT THAT THEY'D BEEN DUPED, THEY WERE BOTH EAGER TO GET RID OF THEIR HOUSES.
NO, ALL HE LEFT BEHIND WERE HIS DEBTS.

NOW WE FINALLY HAVE AN ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...

AFTER ALL, WE'RE ALL INDIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THIS CASE IN SOME WAY.

PERHAPS IT ISN'T.

BUT I THINK WE NEED TO HAVE AS MUCH INFOR-MATION AS POSSIBLE.

SO HOW IS ANY OF THIS RELEVANT TO THE CASE!?

INDEED...

THE NEWS BACK THEN WAS MOSTLY MILITARY PROPAGANDA.

YES, THE OTHER DAY.

EVEN AKASHI-SENSEI WAS SURPRISED...

RECORD-KEEPING WAS SPOTTY DURING THE WARTIME YEARS.

ATSUKO, DID YOU FIND ANYTHING IN THE NEWS-PAPER ARCHIVES?

IT'S A SHORT ARTICLE, BUT IT'S THE FIRST *NEW* EVIDENCE WE'VE SEEN.

THAT'S RIGHT.

WAIT, IS THIS AN ARTICLE ON THE MURDER OF SATA NOBUYOSHI EIGHT YEARS AGO?

WHAT !?

IS THE NAME OF THE MILITARY POLICE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE CASE.

THE CRITICAL DATA POINT...

information has surfaced in the murder case of Army deserter
a Nobuyoshi. According to non-commissioned officer Yamauchi
hiharu of the military police, the wife of the victim
ni, was undergoing intense questioning regarding her
her husband's disappearance and was in police custo
the murder. Her alibi is supported by three office
litary police. It is not known, however, whether Sa
ility of providing assistance during her husband's esc

YAMAUCHI TOSHI-HARU..

IS THAT THE GUY?

I DID SOME INVESTIGATING AND FOUND THAT YAMAUCHI-SAN IS LIVING IN TOKYO NOW.

SO I ASKED HIM TO MEET ME FOR AN INTERVIEW AT SENSEI'S HOUSE IN TSUKIJI.

UM... ONE OF THEM WAS NAMED ISHIBASHI TADASHI.

BUT THE OTHER WAS A BIT OF A SURPRISE...

DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT SATA AKEMI-SAN'S INVESTI-GATION?

WHAT WERE THE NAMES OF THE OTHER TWO OFFICERS WHO WIT-NESSED HER ALIBI?

AND WHAT DID HE SAY?

ICHIYANAGI SHIROU.

THE SAME MAN WHO BOUGHT THE HOUSE NEXT TO UDAGAWA-SENSEI'S.

SERI-OUSLY !?

WHAT ...?

R-RIGHT...

I THINK HE ONLY MET THE WIFE...

BUT ...

RIGHT, SEKI-GUCHI-KUN?

IT SEEMS THAT UDAGAWA TAKASHI NEVER MET THE MAN WHO LIVED NEXT DOOR.

THE NEIGHBOR WAS THE SAME MILITARY OFFICER WHO TORTURED HIS WIFE!?

HOW DID UDAGAWA NOT NOTICE!?

THEY WERE PRACTICALLY LIVING ON TOP OF EACH OTHER!

SO YOU THINK ICHIYANAGI IS THE KILLER ...!?

UDAGAWA MOVED FREQUENTLY, LIKE HE WAS TRYING TO HIDE FROM SOMEONE...

WHAT IF THEY FINALLY FOUND HIM, AND THEY MOVED IN NEXT DOOR?

WHAT IF THE ICHIYANAGIS WERE STALKING THE UDA-GAWAS?

...NO, PRO-BABLY NOT.

ENO-SAN, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD?

SO IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CASE.

?

?

AND SAW HER MEMORY OF THAT OBJECT?

SO YOU INTER-VIEWED THE WOMAN IN OMORI,

YEAH I GUESS.

I SAW A WEIRD-LOOKING SPIKY STICK THAT BROKE INTO TWO PIECES...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?

QUIT RUNNING YOUR MOUTH LIKE AN IDIOT!!

I'M COM-PLETELY LOST...

I THINK THE LADY WAS CONFUSED TOO, BUT THAT'S WHAT SHE SAW.

WHAT WOULD SHE KNOW ABOUT THIS CASE?

YOU MEAN THE MOTHER OF TAKANO YAE, THE GIRL WHO DIED IN THE GROUP SUICIDE INCIDENT?

I NEEDED HIM TO CONFIRM SOMETHING FOR ME.

ENO-SAN INTER-VIEWED THE WIFE OF THE TEACHER FROM OMORI.

THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT...

OH YEAH, THEY USE A STICK CALLED A "DOKKO-ISHO," RIGHT?

BUDD-HIST TOOLS?

SHE SAW YAMADA SEISHIN'S BUDDHIST RITUAL TOOLS.

NOTE "Dokkoisho" is a nonsense word that's used in a lot of Japanese folk songs, but a "tokkosho" is a ritual weapon used by Buddhist and Hindu priests. In Sanskirt, it's called a "vajra." (continued below)

AND ONE WITH FIVE SPIKES ON EACH END IS CALLED A "GOKOSHO."

A KON-GOUSHO WITH THREE SPIKES ON EACH END IS CALLED A "SAN-KOSHO."

KONGOUSHO ARE BASED ON AN INDIAN WEAPON CALLED A "VAJRA."

IN BUDDHISM, THE VAJRA SYMBOLIZES THE POWER TO DEFEAT WORLDLY DESIRES.

IT'S CALLED A "TOKKO-SHO," ACTU-ALLY.

A "TOKKOSHO" IS ONE OF THE SIMPLEST BUDD-HIST TOOLS.

COLLECTIVELY, THE TOOLS ARE CALLED "KONGOUSHO."

Vajra means both "diamond" and "thunderbolt" in Sanskrit, so it symbolizes both indestructible strength and the power to defeat evil. Originally, the vajra was large, heavy club carried by Hindu gods, but over the centuries the shape became stylized into a small jeweled stick with spikes on the ends. Different sects of Buddhism use different shapes of tokkosho, so Kyougoku believes that the style of tokkosho could be a clue to learning more about the mystery monk.

I WANTED TO KNOW IF THIS IS THE SORT OF TOKKOSHO THAT YAMADA SEISHIN CARRIED.

A GOKOSHO IS MADE IN TWO INTERLOCKING PIECES, EACH WITH THREE SPIKES ON ONE END AND TWO SPIKES ON THE OTHER.

STATE? YOU MEAN LIKE HIS CLOTHES?

YES.

ANYWAY, BOSS...

WHAT WAS UDAGAWA TAKASHI'S TIME OF DEATH, AND WHAT STATE WAS HIS BODY IN?

HOW THE HELL IS THIS RELEVANT?

I DON'T GET IT...

BUT IT'S BEEN SO COLD LATELY...

ISN'T THAT STRANGE?

UM...

I GUESS IT IS WEIRD.

MAYBE HE WAS KILLED WHILE HE WAS GETTING DRESSED?

THEY THINK HE DIED LATE AT NIGHT, THOUGH.

HE WAS WEARING TABI.

SOCKS AND UNDER-WEAR?

THAT'S IT?

WHAT ELSE?

WAS HE WEARING SOCKS, FOR INSTANCE?

HE WAS WEARING A T-SHIRT AND SHORTS.

UM...

HE WAS IN HIS UNDER-WEAR.

HOW ODD...

HIS UNDER-WEAR?

NOTE The weird shape in the middle panel is a pair of Japanese tabi socks, which are usually only worn with a kimono. Since they're made of non-stretchy material, they're fastened with many small hooks.

THERE WAS ONE FUTON IN THE BEDROOM.

THAT'S IT.

HM...

THE ONLY THINGS IN THE ROOM WERE A TEA CABINET, A CHARCOAL HEATER AND TWO FLOOR CUSHIONS.

THE OLD MAN DID A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION...

ISN'T IT A BIT STRANGE TO BE CHANGING CLOTHES AFTER MIDNIGHT?

AND IF HE WAS, WHERE IS THE SECOND SET OF CLOTHING?

ACCORDING TO HER TESTIMONY, SHE SLEPT IN THAT ROOM.

WHERE DID AKEMI-SAN SLEEP?

ONLY ONE FUTON?

NOTE Futon mattresses should be stored in a closet when not in use, so the presence of only one mattress suggests that Akemi's husband was not at home when she went to bed.

I WONDER WHAT THE COPS IN KANAGAWA THINK ABOUT THIS?

THE MORE YOU THINK ABOUT THIS CASE, THE WEIRDER IT GETS...

BUT UDAGAWA-SENSEI WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE GONE FOR ONE DAY, RIGHT?

AND IT'S STRANGE THAT HIS CLOTHES WERE MISSING...

WAIT... THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...

HE MUST HAVE BEEN WEARING THAT BEFORE HE DIED...

WHAT ABOUT ... THE KIMONO THAT WAS FOUND IN THE RIVER?

THAT MUST BE IT!

WAIT !!

BUT THAT'S THE KIMONO HE WORE TO THE FUNERAL... DID HE WEAR IT FOR A FULL TWO DAYS?

I GUESS ?

WHAT IF HE WAS UNDRESSED *AFTER* HE WAS KILLED?

BUT NORMALLY YOU'D CHANGE OUT OF FORMAL CLOTHING RIGHT AWAY...

WHAT IF...

HE WAS FORCED OUT OF HIS CLOTHING ...?

SLUMP

NO ...

I THINK HE WAS UNDRESSED WHILE HE WAS STILL ALIVE.

DAMN IT, YOU BASTARD, IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING, TELL US!

WHAT WAS HIS HAIR LIKE WHEN HIS BODY WAS FOUND?

UH... IT WAS KINDA LONG AND PARTED ON THE SIDE...

LIKE THIS, YOU KNOW?

HOW DID UDAGAWA USUALLY WEAR HIS HAIR?

HIS HAIR?

HUH?

NOTE Japanese soldiers who'd been taken prisoner by Russia during WWII were still being returned to Japan in the 1950s, so they'd be given "demobilization uniforms" to wear home. Clothing was rationed after the war and ex-soldiers had very little money, so these uniforms were often the only clothing they owned.

DID YOU FIND ANY MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MUNAKATA TAMIE OR KAMOTA SHUUZOU?
YES, PLEASE DO THAT.
ONE MORE THING...
I GUESS I COULD CHECK THE CRIME SCENE PHOTOS.
I DUNNO, THERE'S NOTHING ABOUT IT IN THE POLICE NOTES.
BUT WHY WOULD THE KILLER CUT HIS HAIR?

NO NEED TO RUSH.
PLEASE LOOK INTO IT RIGHT AWAY.
I'M ALSO INTERESTED IN KAMOTA'S NEPHEW, SAGIMIYA KUNITAKA.
HUH?
IF THERE'S ANYTHING NEW, I HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT IT.

THE GHOST OF NOBUYOSHI WAS ALSO SEEN WEARING A DEMOBIL-IZATION UNIFORM...
YOU MENTIONED BEFORE THAT HE'D JUST RETURNED FROM A POW CAMP, AND THAT GOT ME THINKING.
HUH?
WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HIM?

ACTUALLY, I SAW A MAN IN A UNIFORM THE OTHER DAY.

IT WAS AT THE PEACH GARDEN HOTEL...

IS THAT UNUSUAL?

I MEAN, YOU DON'T SEE A LOT OF MEN IN UNIFORM THESE DAYS, BUT...

HMM ...

...INTER-ESTING.

SO YOU SAY THERE WAS A MAN IN UNIFORM STAYING LONG-TERM AT A HOTEL IN ZUSHI?

BUT HE'S STILL JUST ONE MAN...

OI, KYOUGOKU, ARE YOU THINKING THAT NOBUYOSHI'S "GHOST" WAS REALLY JUST THAT GUY ISAMA SAW?

THAT'S SUSPI-CIOUS, ISN'T IT?

THE WAR IS LONG OVER, SO HARDLY ANYONE STILL WEARS A UNIFORM...

I THINK THERE ARE FOUR MEN.

NO.

WHY WOULD FOUR MEN BE WORKING TOGETHER?

HUH?

SOLDIERS BEING REPATRIATED FROM OVERSEAS USUALLY COME THROUGH THE PORT OF MAIZURU, RIGHT?

MOST OF THEM ARE IN SUCH A HURRY TO GET HOME THAT THEY DON'T EVEN CHANGE THEIR CLOTHES.

I GUESS IT WOULDN'T BE HARD TO FIND FOUR MEN, THOUGH...

THERE ARE PLENTY OF OUT-OF-WORK SOLDIERS THESE DAYS.

YEAH... AND?

THE LATEST SOLDIERS TO BE SENT HOME CAME ON THE SHINANO-MARU LAST YEAR.

BUT AS FAR AS I'M AWARE, THERE WEREN'T ANY NEW SHIPS THIS YEAR.

WE NEED TO FIND ALL FOUR OF THEM...

SO WE STILL NEED TO FIND SAGIMIYA KUNITAKA...

NO...

SURE!

ATSUKO, CAN YOU DO ME A FAVOR AND CHECK THE SHIP'S ROSTER FOR TAMIE'S BROTHER, *MUNAKATA KENZOU*?

THE SHIP WAS CARRYING SOLDIERS WHO'D BEEN HELD CAPTIVE IN SIBERIA.

ONE MORE THING.

BOSS... I NEED YOU TO CONFIRM SOMETHING FOR ME.

?

?

WHICH HOUSE...

SPREAD

BELONGED TO UDAGAWA?

MAIN HOUSE

OWNER'S

CLOSET
BED-ROOM
CLOSET
BED-ROOM
LIVING ROOM
CLOSET
DOOR
BED-ROOM
CLOSET
TOILET
BATH
KITCHEN
CLOSET
BED-ROOM
CLOSET
BED-ROOM
LIVING ROOM
CLOSET
BED-ROOM
CLOSET
TOILET
BATH
KITCHEN
CLOSET
DOOR

YOU DON'T KNOW?

IT'S NOT IN THE NOTES?

...
I DON'T THINK SO.

SHIT...
I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW.

BUT THE POLICE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHICH HOUSE THEY INVESTIGATED?
WHAT A PAIN.

SO ISAMA-KUN HAS BEEN TO THE HOUSE ON THE LEFT.

I THINK IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE ONE ON THE LEFT...

BUT I WASN'T REALLY PAYING ATTENTION AT THE TIME.

THIS MURDER DIDN'T TAKE PLACE IN MY JURISDICTION, SO I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO EXAMINE THE CRIME SCENE MYSELF.

IT'S HARD TO FIGURE OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.

BUT KYOUGOKUDOU HASN'T SEEN THE EVIDENCE EITHER...

AND HE'S STILL ABLE TO RECONSTRUCT THE CRIME IN HIS HEAD!

SIGH

...FINE.

TCH!

DAMN IT, KYOUGOKU.

YOU OBVIOUSLY HAVE SOME IDEA ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED, SO WHY NOT SHARE IT WITH THE REST OF THE CLASS?

BUT IF YOU INSIST, I'LL TELL YOU.

I HAVEN'T COMPLETELY CONFIRMED MY THEORY YET, SO THIS IS JUST SPECULATION.

I BELIEVE THAT SATA AKEMI-SAN...

IS INNOCENT.

WH...

WHAT !?

IF AKEMI-SAN IS GUILTY OF A CRIME, IT'S MERELY THE CRIME OF PERJURY.

I THINK SHE'S BEEN FRAMED FOR MURDER.

BUT ISHII ISN'T EVEN THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THIS CASE...

BUT... HOW!?

BOSS, PLEASE CONTACT INSPEC-TOR ISHII AND TELL HIM THIS:

IF HE DOES WHAT I SAY, I CAN EXORCISE THE STAIN FROM HIS PRO-FESSIONAL RECORD AND RESTORE HIS REPUTATION.

HE'S CLOSE ENOUGH.

UDA-GAWA'S MURDER ...

THE GOLDEN SKULL CASE ...

THE OTHER DECAPI-TATED HEADS FOUND IN ZUSHI BAY ...

THE MURDER OF A DRAFT DODGER EIGHT YEARS AGO ...

THE DEATHS OF AKEMI'S FAMILY MEMBERS IN A FIRE ...

THE STRANGE ACTIONS OF THOSE SHINTO PRIESTS ...

THEY'RE *ALL* RELATED.

WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT THESE SEPARATE INCIDENTS ARE ALL PARTS OF ONE CRIME.

SO THIS INVESTI-GATION IS DIRECTLY TIED TO THE ZUSHI BAY CASE.

WHAT THE...

HOW CAN THEY ALL BE RELATED?

AND THEN WHAT?

AND THEN...

FIRST WE NEED TO LOCATE THE UNIFORMED MAN WHO WAS SEEN AT THE PEACH GARDEN HOTEL.

THEN WE NEED TO FIND THE ICHIYANAGI COUPLE AND BRING THEM IN FOR QUESTION-ING.

S-SO WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

WHEN THOSE THINGS ARE COMPLETE, I'LL BE ABLE TO CONDUCT THE EXOR-CISM.

THE LOCATION OF THE EXORCISM WILL BE THE *SHOUBOUIN TEMPLE* IN ZUSHI.

WE NEED TO GO TO UDAGAWA'S HOUSE AND SEE WHAT'S IN THE WELL.

THE MORE I THINK I KNOW ABOUT THIS CASE...

THE LESS SENSE IT MAKES...